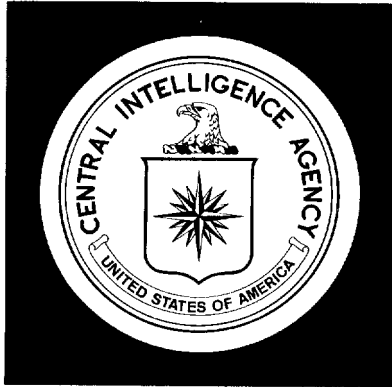


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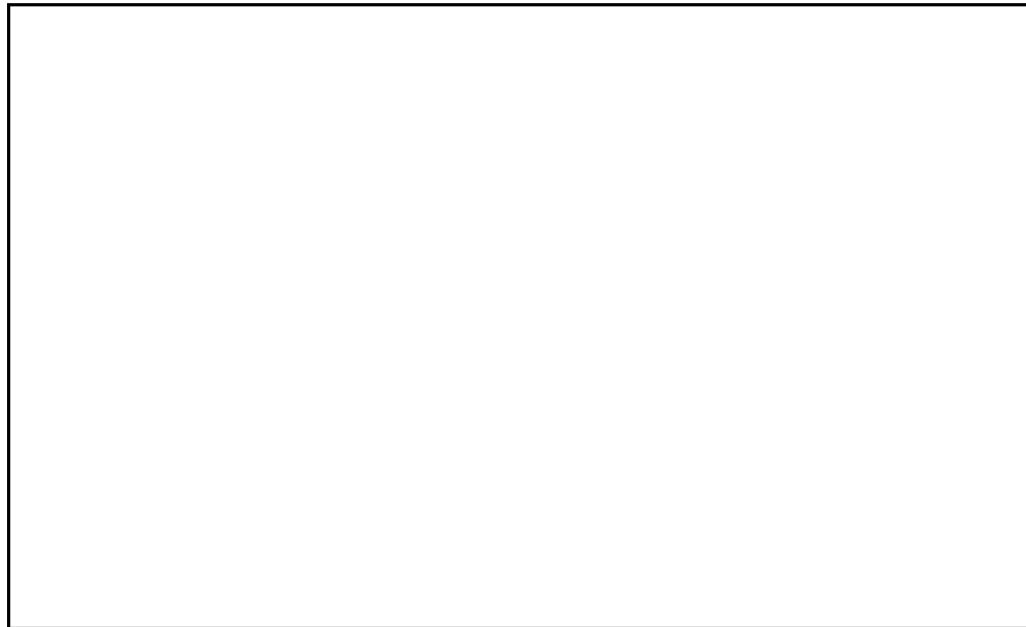


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FOR THE RECORD*

JAPAN - NORTH KOREA: TOKYO HAS AGREED TO GRANT EXPORT-IMPORT BANK CREDITS TO NORTH KOREA TO FINANCE THE PURCHASE OF A SMALL PLANT. THIS IS A FIRST FOR TOKYO AND SIGNALS AN EXPANSION OF TRADE RELATIONS WITH PYONGYANG. THE NORTH KOREANS HAVE BEEN SEEKING SUCH FINANCING FOR SEVERAL YEARS, BUT TOKYO HAS HELD BACK BECAUSE OF SOUTH KOREAN AND US OBJECTIONS. AS OF NOW, TOKYO CLAIMS IT INTENDS TO FINANCE ONLY SMALL-SCALE PROJECTS AND TO MOVE AHEAD SLOWLY.

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